



# Power County

September 2020

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DEPT. OF LABOR

## Workforce Trends

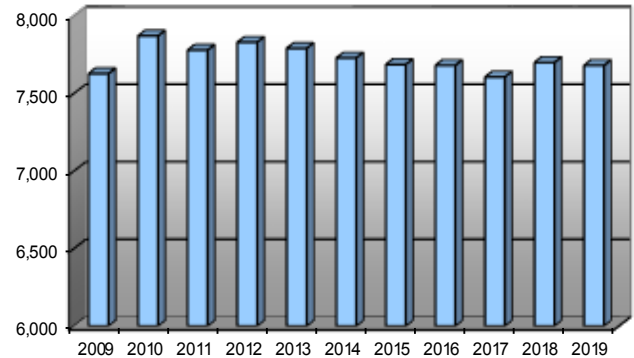
### Population

Power County's population was relatively stable through the 2000s. Between 2000 and 2010 the county's population grew by 4.9 percent to 7,851. The population in recent years has fluctuated.

Natural growth and in-migration raised the population early in the decade. The loss of manufacturing jobs midway through forced people to look for work elsewhere. The population in 2019 was estimated to be 7,681. American Falls, the largest city in the county had a population of 4,315.

The American Falls Reservoir, the largest on the Snake River, is one of the best boating and fishing lakes in the state. It also provides storage for irrigation and hydropower generation. The original American Falls, below the dam, adds stunning scenery to the county's lush and fertile farm land.

Population



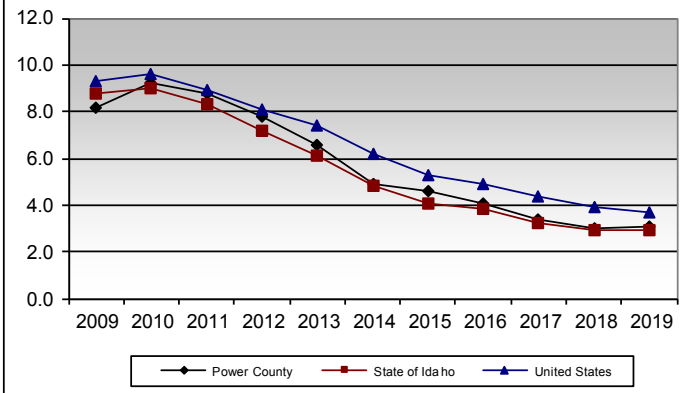
### Labor Force & Employment

A diverse, skilled work force with an excellent work history is heavily dependent on agriculture and related manufacturing. National and regional economic fluctuations in agriculture kept unemployment high throughout the decade.

With agriculture and related manufacturing providing most of the county's employment, diversification is needed for future growth. The many marinas and beaches, excellent trout fishing and wind and water conditions have potential to draw more tourists to American Falls.

The labor force changed little between 2000 and 2010. Because of seasonal layoffs in food processing, the county unemployment rate jumped to 8.1 percent in 2009, reached a record high in 2010 at 9.2 percent and then began a downward trend in 2011. In 2014 the rate dropped 1.7 percentage points to 4.9 percent. The rate fell in 2018 to 2.0 percent unemployed. However, a slight increase occurred in 2019 as the rate rose to 3.1 percent.

Unemployment Rates



Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	4,112	4,097
Total Employment	3,974	3,956
Unemployed	138	141
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

currred in 2019 as the rate rose to 3.1 percent.

Employment dropped in Power County from 3,695 in 2006 to a low of 3,177 in 2009. However, the level has remained fairly constant since 2012. Nearly all the loss was in manufacturing with the shutdown of the Astaris phosphate plant at the end of 2001.

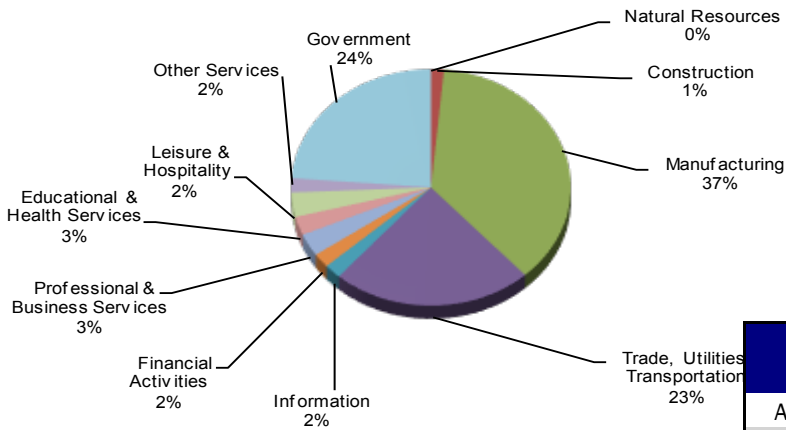
In the recession, only two industries showed significant employment growth over the decade — agriculture and other services.

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	3,459	3,872	3,929	4,089	3,981	3,976	3,877	3,937	3,955	4,080	4,092
Unemployment	281	357	345	318	262	193	177	161	136	121	127
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	9.2	8.8	7.8	6.6	4.9	4.6	4.1	3.4	3.0	3.1
Employment	3,177	3,515	3,584	3,771	3,719	3,783	3,700	3,776	3,819	3,959	3,965

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## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



## Major Employers (Private)

Con Agra  
 County Line Farms  
 Driscoll Potatoes LLC  
 Double L Manufacturing  
 Amerian Falls School District  
 Ken's Food Market  
 J. R. Simplot Company  
 Koompin Farms  
 Lance Funk Farms

## Industry Employment & Wages

Even though the number of manufacturing jobs decreased between 2000 to 2016, the industry still provides 31 percent of covered employment and pays Power County's highest wages.

Agriculture accounts for 16 percent. Government has 19.8 percent of the jobs with many in public education.

The average covered wage of \$43,118 ranks well among all Idaho counties, influenced by the large percentage of workers in manufacturing, where the average wage is \$58,390. However, the county's per capita income ranks 32nd in the state.

Southeast Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wages	Median Wages
Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$11.70	\$19.02
Cashiers	\$8.50	\$10.67
Clerks, General Office	\$10.61	\$15.15
Construction Laborers	\$11.00	\$15.08
Fast Food & Counter Workers	\$8.54	\$10.15
Food Batchmakers	\$12.82	\$17.66
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.14	\$11.95
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$8.55	\$10.52
Registered Nurses	\$25.47	\$32.27
Retail Salesperson	\$9.61	\$13.35
Teachers, Elementary	\$37,910	\$55,360
Teachers, Secondary	\$34,030	\$47,820

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	3,218	\$32,382	3,412	\$42,014	3,341	\$43,118
<b>Agriculture</b>	450	\$26,272	558	\$34,895	545	\$36,744
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	59	\$29,092	37	\$37,909	41	\$35,793
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,072	\$42,157	1,123	\$54,893	1,036	\$58,390
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	617	\$28,719	653	\$40,490	642	\$40,598
<b>Information</b>	47	\$27,414	47	\$44,257	56	\$48,593
<b>Financial Activities</b>	53	\$27,357	49	\$38,546	55	\$40,807
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	78	\$51,379	84	\$68,654	84	\$56,579
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	32	\$27,441	77	\$24,752	72	\$28,103
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	72	\$6,983	85	\$10,024	94	\$9,816
<b>Other Services</b>	49	\$25,152	49	\$28,827	55	\$36,302
<b>Government</b>	690	\$26,706	650	\$31,540	663	\$32,310

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Power County</b>	\$28,606	\$29,462	\$34,138	\$34,961	\$34,704	\$32,824	\$35,462	\$34,184	\$35,757	\$36,667
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
<b>United States</b>	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis